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MINUTES

MEETING OF THE NATURAL DISASTER SUPPORT TASK GROUP

9 March 1970

USGS Office, Reston, Virginia

1. The second meeting of the Task Group was convened by the Chairman at 1:30 P. M.

2. Minutes of the 17 February 1970 meeting were read, discussed, and amended as appropriate.

3. [redacted] USGS, noted that not all clearances had been passed by agencies represented. Checks were made just prior to meeting time. The Chairman commented that, because of the change in time and date to combine with the morning meeting, written notices were not distributed and telephone notification late last week was resorted to. Future meeting announcements with agenda will be distributed hereinafter prior to meeting time. STAT

4. [redacted] in accordance with Item No. 1 on the agenda, invited discussion around the table in turn by each member as to his agency's emergency disaster-response mechanisms. An OEP handout entitled, "Federal Disaster Assistance Handbook for Government Officials," was distributed. STAT

5. [redacted] USDA, discussed USDA emergency operating procedures and distributed copies of pertinent and current documentation in support. Citing Presidential EO 11495 (Nov. 18, 1969), correspondence between the Director, OEP, and the Secretary of Agriculture, and other internal USDA publications (see Attachment 2), he described "key officials" and USDA national, state, and county defense boards and disaster committees responsible for administration and coordination of the levels of USDA action response. Mention was made of corresponding teletype and telephone nets supporting the national and state command channels. STAT

6. [redacted] ESSA, briefed on ESSA reporting systems for natural phenomenon situations: (1) meteorological, (2) hydrology (floods), (3) earthquakes, and (4) tsunamis. In turn, in connection with meteorology, he identified reporting nets and data centers (Miami, Fla., Kansas City, Mo., and Silver Spring, Md.), the supporting military and civilian weather reporting points, radar warning and coordination system, and other STAT

associated real-time data reporting nets. For hydrology information, the same nets are used with additional inputs of data from USGS and Corps of Engineers river gauge systems. The National Earthquake Reporting ~~Prediction~~ Center, Rockville, Md., operates on a 24-hour basis with a capability of providing quake epicenter and magnitude in two hours time after data is in from the field siesmic reporting points. For tsunamis, the national center at Honolulu provides the focus of warning and reporting with Alaskan stations providing supplementary ~~reporting~~ warning capability. Finally, he described the ESSA satellite systems and noted its ground resolution (1-2 miles); other aircraft platforms-- DC-4, DC-6, RB-57, Dehaviland Buffalo and Aero Commando--were mentioned.

7. Dr. Guthe described several supporting programs undertaken in response to OEP and USGS requirements. He noted limiting applications in certain specific disaster situations. For optimum data acquisition planning purposes, he recommended pre-identification of major disaster-prone areas of the U. S.

8. [redacted] spoke to available DOD resources which might be (and which have been) tasked in support of pre-and post-disaster situations. He described specific aircraft platforms, sensors, training, and mapping/charting facilities. He described current reporting channels from the Pentagon to the Services and Commands. He emphasized the need for establishment of clear-cut command channels from the civil side to the Pentagon (JCS, DIA, Hq USAF) upon the occasion when use of these resources are contemplated. STAT

9. [redacted] spoke to additional resources and platforms which might be tasked, and offered the point that reaction time between request and planning could be rather rapid under certain circumstances. He recommended attention by the Task Group to two points: (1) registration of basic requirement with the COMOREX by identifying general disaster-prone areas of the U. S. and (2) consideration of the gradual build-up of a pre-disaster photo data base. [redacted] suggested examination and utilization of existing imagery libraries and collections prior to levying acquisition requirements for data base development. STAT STAT

10. [redacted] reported that NASC has no resources in this context. STAT

11. [redacted] reported that TOPOCOM has a "quick reaction" mapping capability; can process some photo maps and mosaics (scale 1:25,000 and 1:50,000) in 24 hours on a service basis. TOPOCOM STAT

has been giving considerable thought, time, and energy to many areas of disaster support. He cited, in this connection, a study undertaken by [redacted] of the Command which considered in detail a system for providing disaster support to a "National Disaster Center, and noted that [redacted] would invite an invitation to brief the group. [redacted] stated that he would provide to the Task Group copies of a comprehensive manual of program regulations and instructions for Corps of Engineer disaster action response. STAT STAT STAT

12. [redacted] spoke to the multiple uses of photos, photo mosaics, and other such products by contractors and construction teams after floods and other disaster situations. He described the Engineers' Civil Works flood control, data network (250 reporting stations) operations centers, radio nets to Department of the Army Operations, and other direct teletype hook-ups. STAT

13. [redacted] stated the Houston-based Earth Resources Program aircraft is a possible available resource for disaster data acquisition--as it was used after Camille. He further described the communications links (radio, computer) between NASA Hqs., Goddard, and MSC-Houston, as well as other telephone and teletype linkages between Hqs. and the other centers, viz. Goddard, Huntsville, Ames, MSC, Lewis, and others, for example. [redacted] mentioned the NASA Hqs. Emergency Coordination Office and its relationship with the field centers. He asked [redacted] to describe some of the objectives, mechanics, operations, training, of the NASA emergency response system, who did so and briefly cited in the Camille situation the types of response actions undertaken by NASA centers at Huntsville, Houston, the Cape, and the Mississippi Test Facility. STAT 25X1 STAT

14. [redacted] described the Department of Interior Environmental Warning Program wherein all Interior personnel are active "sensors" for reporting environmental phenomena. Resources for evaluating disaster situations include the Department's professional expertise and knowledge of environmental problem areas, such as floods, oil pollution, earthquakes, land slides, water pollution, vulcanism and so forth. He mentioned the close continuing relationships with the Corps of Engineers, ESSA, and other agencies including OEP as regular and appropriate. In addition to the personnel resources, he cited sensor systems: water-gauging stations, the volcanic observatory in Hawaii, aircraft equipped with photographic and other sensor equipment. [redacted] tabled a written statement describing the working of the Environmental Early Warning System, and it is listed among the citations in Attachment 2. STAT STAT

15. [redacted] presented for discussion the flow outline of a suggested system for disaster support. The discussion (with handouts) described the initiation of support effort (by OEP) by an alerting mechanism as to an impending or after a disaster event has occurred. A task group thus assembled determine requirements for overflight, schedules, photographic interpretation activity, arranges for processing and production of photo products and timely dissemination of reported information. The flow concept considers "feed-back" for rescheduling flights, additional support as required by continuing task group monitorship. STAT

16. During the discussion that followed the presentations, emphasis seemed to dwell on the following:

What are the information needs?

Who needs the data?

What are the priorities for information?

Preparation of catalogs of available photo-available sensors collection platforms.

Establishment of pre-disaster photographic data bases.

Identification of areas of the U. S. periodically disaster-prone (hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, earthquakes, etc.).

17. There was almost uniform consensus that a necessary and useful purpose for data collection planning would be served by developing a systematically matching of disaster photo information need (area, details of information required) with collection resource (sensors, resolution, altitude, scale, etc.). In this connection, Dr. [redacted] described a similar matrix utilized in the NASA Earth Resources Program for matching scientists/user needs with specific sensors. STAT

18. In response to this discussion, [redacted] requested that the members bring to the next meeting their information needs (those which may be satisfied by aerial photographic sources), data priorities, user levels, etc. STAT

19. After discussion as to time and date, it was agreed that, because of urgency, future meetings be held weekly at 1:30 P.M. at Reston. As a consequence to Messrs. [redacted] being unable to attend the next scheduled meeting, [redacted] agreed to work out mutually acceptable arrangements for insuring OCE's continued coverage. STAT STAT STAT

20. The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,

[redacted] STAT

Attachments - 2

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ATTACHMENT 2

DOCUMENTATION

1. Office of Emergency Preparedness

   a. Federal Disaster Assistance Handbook for Government Officials
   b. Hurricane Camille - Four Months of Federal Action
   c. Hurricane Camille - One Month of Federal Action
   d. Background Information on Hurricane Camille Relief Effort
   e. Flow-charts, System for Disaster Support

2. Department of Agriculture

   a. Presidential EO 11495, Nov. 18, 1969, Providing for the Administration of the Disaster Relief Act of 1969
   b. Correspondence between Director, OEP and the Secretary of Agriculture, July 19 and August 20, 1969, respectively
   c. Disaster Assistance Available through U. S. Department of Agriculture, June 2, 1969
   d. 1AR-301, Chapter 5, Natural Disaster and Peacetime Radiological Disaster Responsibilities in USDA (4-20-64, Amend. 12)
   e. When Disaster Strikes, USDA PA-533, August 1969 (rev.)

3. Environmental Science Services Administration

   a. Earthquakes, ESSA/P1 690005
   b. Weather Bureau Spotter's Guide, ESSA/P1 690013
   c. The Weather Bureau and Water Management, ESSA/P1 680010
   d. Hurricane, ESSA/P1 670009
   e. Tornado Preparedness Planning
   f. Tsunami Watch and Warning, ESSA/P1 660026

4. Department of Interior

   Written statement on the Department's Environmental Early Warning System

5. Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army

   Emergency Employment of Army Resources; Natural Disaster Activities, ER 500-1-1, 1 Sept. 1967